

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al.)

- AGAINST -)

ARAKI, SADAC, et al.)

A F F I D A V I T.

I, SUZUKI, Tomin, make oath and say as follows:

I am an editorial writer, and have been employed since 1935 by the newspaper Yomiura Shimbun. On numerous occasions between 1935 and the outbreak of the Pacific War in December 1941, I wrote articles favoring settlement of the China dispute, depicting peace, questioning Japan's right to rule China and criticizing Japanese military aggression. All of my writings on these subjects were written in a manner calculated not to be offensive to governmental policy. On each occasion I thus indicated disfavor in my writings with governmental policy I received visits from the military police and civil police, who warned me not to write upon such subjects again.

Newspapers and publications in Japan since 1935 have been subjected to strict censorship directed by the Government and put in practice by the Home Ministry. Newspapers were not permitted to print anything on political matters except such news items as were issued by the various ministries of the Government, with the result that newspapers published little besides propaganda tending to justify Japanese militaristic and aggressive warfare objectives. In addition to the various censorship laws in existence, it was the practice for the Government through the Home Ministry, to issue press bans on news items, which officials of the Government decided should be withheld from the Japanese public.

The various ministries of the government directed newspapers in relation to the manner in which news items should be treated, and in addition thereto, it was the practice particularly of the Navy Press Bureau, Army Press Bureau and Foreign Office Press Bureau to call individual writers and journalists to their offices periodically and issue instructions to them as to the material which could be published and the manner in which such material must be published.

That newspapers and publications in Japan from 1935 until the termination of the Pacific War were completely under the control and domination of the Japanese government, and during these years there was no such thing as the semblance of a free press in Japan.

s/ Tomin Suzuki
SUZUKI, Tomin

Sworn and subscribed to before the undersigned officer by the above-named SUZUKI, Tomin, at the War Ministry Building, Tokyo, Japan, this 17th day of June, 1946.

s/ Arthur A. Sandusky
Captain, J.A.G.D.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Frank Iwana, HEREBY CERTIFY That I am fully conversant with the Japanese and English languages, and that I, this day, read the foregoing Affidavit to the above-named SUZUKI, Tomin in Japanese, and in so doing, truly and correctly translated the contents thereof from English into Japanese; and that said SUZUKI, Tomin stated to me that the contents of said Affidavit were the truth, and that he was willing to sign said Affidavit under oath; and that said SUZUKI, Tomin was duly sworn in my presence and signed said Affidavit under oath in my presence; and that all proceedings incidental to the administration of said oath and the signing of said Affidavit were truly and correctly translated from Japanese into English and English into Japanese and fully understood and comprehended by said Affiant.

Dated this 17th day of June, 1946, at Tokyo, Japan.

s/ Frank Iwana